

Mr. DOGGETT. But he can refer to the powers of the committee and the general subject of ethics?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would judge those references when they are made.

POINTS OF ORDER

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her point of order.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I just want a further clarification.

The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is saying he is talking about a precedent of prior investigations. He is discussing precedents that were discussed in this House at prior times. Therefore I am not quite sure I understand, under the Speaker's guidance, why he is not allowed to proceed with the precedent and a statement made in 1988. He is not talking about an individual in 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid references to current investigations pending before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Further point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Chair saying then no discussion can be made of precedents, and past cases, and how the House proceeded on those past cases?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Not if related to current matters.

Mr. HOKE. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

It was clear that the Member had not referenced what he was speaking to. He was clearly alluding to a current investigation that was taking place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has already ruled that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] should not refer to the current investigation.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying this House and the Speaker cannot tolerate a double standard. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

NEW MEDICAID APPROACH

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of discussion about Medicare in this Chamber, but I believe it is time to begin the discussion of Medicaid.

I recall when I served on the Michigan legislature some of the oldtimers told me when the original Medicaid bill was passed a Member got up and refused to vote for it. He said, "I predict that someday this State will spend \$50 million a year on this program."

Mr. Speaker, he was wrong. Today the State of Michigan is spending \$2 billion on that program every year, approximately 20 percent of their general fund budget. That was true for State after State.

In my State of Michigan, Mr. Speaker, when I was in the legislature, it was very frustrating because we knew where we could save money in the Medicaid program, but the Federal Government refused to give us the freedom to pursue the actions that we wanted to pursue.

I believe it is very important that we proceed with the approach the Republicans are advocating, giving the States leeway in how they go on the program and giving them block grants so they can run it efficiently and properly. I urge that we adopt the new Medicaid approach operating through State block grants.

MEDICARE PREMIUM INCREASE

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the biggest Medicare cut in history, \$270 billion, and the smallest possible number of hearings, one, and even in that hearing the deck is being loaded. The majority is picking a dozen or so witnesses and letting the minority pick a handful.

What are they trying to hide? The biggest premium increase in Medicare history doubling part B in 7 years, and a lot of people cannot afford this. In Michigan 85 percent of the seniors have income under \$25,000 and 70 percent under \$15,000.

A constituent wrote this to me:

Please do not let these cuts to Medicare pass. It really would be very devastating for us. Please, please fight this for us.

That is what we Democrats are doing. We are determined to win this battle that is aimed right at the heart of seniors.

THE FEDERAL SHUTDOWN—NOT 1 MINUTE, NOT 1 SECOND

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of millions of Federal workers who have become the unwilling passengers in what has been dubbed the great train wreck; the only thing is, a train wreck is an accident, and this is a situation we can avert.

There is a need to get this country's fiscal house in order. I support this, and it can be done without interfering with the lives of Federal workers. It can be done without the disruption a Government shutdown will have on our citizenry.

Our Federal work force provides this country with unquestionable loyalty and dedication. We remember the Federal worker, devastated and injured after the Oklahoma City bombing, still anguishing over her inability to get checks out to recipients.

Federal workers across the country and in my district do not want a shut-

down this year or any subsequent year. They want to work, and I want them working.

The NIH researcher who is working on a possible cure for cancer should not miss work. We need that young woman working. There are people depending on her. I say, not 1 week, not 1 day of missed work.

The DOE scientist who is searching for alternative forms of energy should not miss work, not 1 hour, not 1 minute of missed work.

The education specialist who is designing strategies that will benefit our children should not miss work. Future generations are depending on this man. I say, not 1 second, not 1 fraction of a second of missed work.

The consequences are too great.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL WHEN INVESTIGATING THE SPEAKER SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED IN SCOPE

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, we have an Ethics Committee and I would like to offer a primer on how the House should handle ethics cases.

Let me quote from a Member of this House, who also happens to be an experienced expert on ethics cases, who stated in 1988: "The rules normally applied to Members of Congress are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House." I repeat. He said, "The rules normally applied are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House." "Clearly, this investigation," he said "has to meet a higher standard of public accountability and integrity."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this should be the standard by which all ethics cases before this House should be considered. When the House chooses to appoint an outside counsel to investigate a Speaker, that counsel should be allowed to investigate any and all possible wrongdoing and not be limited in scope.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO SHUT DOWN

(Mr. GEKAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, for several terms now I have introduced legislation which cannot pass the Congress of the United States, cannot be enacted into law, because it makes good sense. I have introduced legislation that would avoid the train wreck to which the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] has just referred. What it does is if, on September 30, the Congress of the United States and the President have failed to enact a budget, then automatically into play comes instant replay of last year's budget beginning on October 1.